

EXHIBIT 1

Water tests anger Arkansas judge

By Dawn Marks, Enid Bureau

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — An Arkansas judge said water-testing devices found in his county are part of a "clandestine" operation and suggested the Oklahoma attorney general is responsible.

County Judge Jerry Hunton said Wednesday his crews have found five water-monitoring devices near area streams since Friday. He said he doesn't protest the monitoring but the fact it was done secretly.

"In the past, it's been a cooperative effort," he said. "In this case, everything has been clandestine. They're sneaking across the line."

Oklahoma and Arkansas officials long have argued about solutions to the level of phosphorus flowing into the Illinois River from western Arkansas streams.

The monitoring equipment was found at tributaries to larger creeks that eventually reach the Illinois River. Because of this, Hunton suspects the Oklahoma attorney general's office may have hired a contractor to put them in.

However, property owners apparently weren't contacted for permission, he said.

The Oklahoma attorney general's office is preparing for possible litigation against poultry companies suspected of contaminating the Illinois River watershed.

"We are doing some monitoring, but we're not discussing where we're monitoring," attorney general spokesman Charlie Price said. "One of the things we're looking at is surface water."

Price said the office has hired outside companies to look at water-quality issues in all sources to determine the nature and extent of the pollution. He could not confirm that the devices found in Washington County, Ark., are related to the office's testing.

Three of the water-testing devices — barrels with computer systems inside — are on county rights of way. One is on private land, and another is on state land, Hunton said.

The devices were rented by Camp Dresser and McKee, an environmental firm based in Cambridge, Mass. A notice taped on the barrels refers questions to University of Tulsa professor Bert Fisher, Hunton said.

However, Hunton said that when he spoke with Fisher, the professor did not confirm who had hired him. Neither Fisher nor the environmental company could be reached for comment Wednesday.

Price confirmed that Camp Dresser and McKee is one of the companies the attorney general's office hired.

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